

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 311124 TOSEC 340028
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----272127Z 003587 /73

P 272035Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 311124 TOSEC 340028

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 21613 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LISBON NATO DTD 27 DEC

QTE

S E C R E T BONN 21613

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS ACTION SECDEF WASHDC AND INFO USNMR
SHAPE AND USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, NATO, PO, GW, US

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) STATE 310763 DTG 240140Z DEC 76;
(B) USNATO 7008 DTG 231654Z DEC 76;
(C) BONN 19750 DTG 231300Z NOV 76 NOTAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 311124 TOSEC 340028

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE
TO PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION HAVE NOW BEEN APPROVED
BY DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER AND ARE BEFORE THE FOREIGN
MINISTER. APPROVAL WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED BY THE
FINANCE MINISTER AND THE CHANCELLOR. FRG DEFENSE
OFFICIALS AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE APPROACH SUGGESTED

BY THE US FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER NATO ALLIES, BUT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE, OR THAT FRG OFFERS OF SUPPORT CAN BE FIRMED UP, BEFORE THE PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES HAVE MADE KNOWN THEIR REQUIREMENTS. THE FMOD DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE THOSE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY. END SUMMARY

1. FRG DEFENSE OFFICIALS SHARE US VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RAPID PROGRESS IN PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION AND OF THE NEED FOR ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATO ALLIES. WITH A DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, OF THE STATUS OF PORTUGAL'S OWN PLANNING, GERMAN VIEWS ON THE TIMING AND SEQUENCE OF NEXT STEPS DO NOT YET AGREE WITH OUR OWN.

2. EMBOFF WENT OVER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL A WITH MAJOR GENERAL BRANDT, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF (POL/MIL AFFAIRS), FMOD, ON DEC 27. BRANDT SEEMED UNAWARE OF PLANS FOR A JANUARY MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND QUESTIONED WHETHER SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE ADVISABLE BEFORE THE PORTUGUESE HAD MADE KNOWN THEIR REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT. HE DID NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE THESE REQUESTS BEFORE THE LAST WEEK IN JANUARY AT THE EARLIEST.

3. GENERAL BRANDT RECALLED THAT, WHEN THE US/FRG SURVEY TEAM CHIEFS PRESENTED THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PORTUGUESE IN AUGUST, THEY WERE TOLD THEY WOULD BE INVITED BACK TO LISBON IN OCTOBER TO RECEIVE THE PORTUGUESE REACTIONS. THE OCTOBER MEETING DID NOT TAKE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 311124 TOSEC 340028

PLACE, AND THE GERMANS ARE NOW EXPECTING THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE END OF JANUARY. BRANDT SAID HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED THE TIMING QUESTION WITH A PENTAGON COUNTERPART BY PHONE AND THOUGHT THE US WAS ALSO WORKING ON THE SAME TIMEFRAME. HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE ALLIES COULD MAKE SPECIFIC OFFERS OF EQUIPMENT UNTIL THE PORTUGUESE HAD MADE THEIR OWN DESIRES KNOWN.

4. BRANDT ALSO DISCUSSED THE STATUS OF INTERNAL FRG PLANNING, STATING THAT THE GERMANS WERE BEHIND THE US IN PART BECAUSE DISCUSSIONS OF FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT (DEC L4) HAD TAKEN PRIORITY. DEFENSE MINISTRY PROPOSALS HAD, HOWEVER, NOW BEEN THOROUGHLY STAFFED IN THE FMOD AND HAD BEEN APPROVED BY MINISTER LEBER. THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AND HE WAS INFORMED THAT A MEMORANDUM CONTAINING FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS WAS SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON DECEMBER 23. BRANDT SAID GENSCHER

WAS IN BONN AND MIGHT ACT ON THE PROPOSALS AS EARLY AS THIS WEEK.

5. BEFORE AN FRG POSITION CAN BE TAKEN, HOWEVER, IT MUST ALSO BE APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND BY THE CHANCELLOR (WHO IS VACATIONING IN SPAIN UNTIL JANUARY 7). BRANDT EXPLAINED THAT THIS HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL WAS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE FRG

HAD NEVER BEFORE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF ADVISERS AND THAT A SPECIAL POLITICAL DECISION WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR SENDING NOT ONLY EQUIPMENT BUT PERSONNEL.

6. BRANDT CONTINUED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WAS NOT UNTIL JANUARY 25, BUT THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE THREE MINISTERS AND THE CHANCELLOR WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE BEFORE THEN ON THE EDGE OF A CABINET MEETING.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 311124 TOSEC 340028

7. BRANDT PREFERRED NOT TO RESPOND TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN PARA 5, REFTEL A, UNTIL HE COULD GO OVER THE US PRESENTATION WITH HIS STAFF EXPERTS. ASKED WHETHER THE PROPOSALS APPROVED BY LEBER AND FORWARDED TO GENSCHER INCLUDED PROVISION OF THE 50 TANKS (REF C), BRANDT SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF THE NUMBER BUT THAT TANKS WERE INCLUDED--BUT ONLY IF THE PORTUGUESE REQUESTED THEM. AS FOR THE US IDEAS ON SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE BY OTHER NATO ALLIES, BRANDT'S PRELIMINARY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THEY SEEMED LIKE GOOD IDEAS BUT THAT ALL OF THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY AN "IF"--IF THE GOP ASKED FOR THAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.

8. BRANDT STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO A MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP, AND HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF LOBBYING WITH OTHER ALLIES. HE RESERVED JUDGMENT ON TIMING OF SUCH APPROACHES PENDING FULLER STUDY OF THE US PROPOSAL, BUT HOPED TO PROVIDE A FURTHER REACTION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

9. COMMENT: WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MORE FORMAL FRG RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL WILL IN LARGE MEASURE BE DEPENDENT ON NEXT STEPS TAKEN BY THE PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES. IF AS EXPECTED BY USNATO (PARA 2, REF B) THE PORTUGUESE RELEASE THEIR REQUEST TO THE ALLIES IN EARLY JANUARY, RATHER THAN WAITING FOR A RETURN VISIT TO LISBON BY THE US/FRG SURVEY TEAM, THIS MAY EXPEDITE GERMAN ACTION. BRANDT INDICATED IN ANY CASE THAT THE STAFF LEVEL WERE URGING THE CABINET

TO REACH EARLY DECISIONS, BUT THE HIGH-LEVEL
CLEARANCES REQUIRED WILL STILL TAKE TIME.
STOESSEL UNQTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE311124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:SGOLDSMITH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-0294
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761212/aaaaakck.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 310763, 77 BONN 19750
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION
TAGS: MILI, MASS, PO, GE, US, NATO
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006